

**Draft Summary of the Engineering and Operations Work Group Meeting  
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)  
January 30, 2004**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted the Engineering and Operations Work Group (EOWG) meeting on January 30, 2004 via telephone conference.

A summary of the discussions, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present an informational summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following attachments are provided with this summary:

- Attachment 1 Meeting Agenda
- Attachment 2 Meeting Attendees
- Attachment 3 Engineering and Operations Work Group Resource Action Matrix
- Attachment 4 Summary of Potential Sensitivity Analysis

### **Introduction**

Attendees were welcomed to the EOWG meeting. The meeting agenda and desired outcomes were reviewed. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees and their affiliations are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively.

### **December 19, 2003 Meeting Summary and Action Items**

A summary of the December 19, 2003 EOWG is posted on the relicensing web site. The EOWG reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

**Action Item EO#101:** Convene a cross resource task force with EWG to discuss RAs and refine modeling input.

**Status:** A joint task force was convened on January 21, 2004 between members of the EOWG and EWG to discuss specific modeling input and questions to assist in evaluating proposed resource actions under discussion within the EWG. A sub-group is developing a draft prioritized stressor list and attribute table for discussion at the next task force meeting, scheduled for February 9, 2004.

**Action Item EO#99:** Provide copies of resource action information forms not previously distributed and identify technical contacts and expected study completion dates on matrix.

**Status:** The matrix was distributed via e-mail to EOWG participants. See discussion below.

**Action Item EO#100:** Include priority column on Summary of Potential Sensitivity Analysis chart.

**Status:** The chart was revised and distributed in advance of the EOWG meeting. See discussion below.

### **Resource Actions Matrix Review**

Curtis Creel (DWR) led a discussion and review of revisions to the Resource Actions Matrix distributed in advance of the EOWG meeting (Attachment 3). He noted the added column that indicates anticipated release of a narrative report. He outlined current modeling efforts that will provide information for resource actions related to water temperature and Oroville Facilities operations. The EOWG discussed the work of Cass Muters with UCD Extension related to affects of water temperature on developing rice. Curtis reported that DWR is reviewing rice production in Butte County and records indicate both number of acres and yield have increased from the past. Ken Kules reminded the EOWG that baseline for the purposes of NEPA analysis is current operational conditions so impacts from the Oroville Facilities would be measured as a result of any changes to existing operations.

The EOWG discussed the proposed resource actions related to an oversight committee and the various options for consideration. The EOWG agreed in concept to periodic meetings that may be

necessary for the term of the next license for various purposes but recognized that the oversight committee structure will be developed during settlement negotiations as the needs for such actions during the license term become clear. Michael Pierce (Butte County) recommended a performance-based, overarching steering committee similar to ORAC; DWR disagreed with that recommendation. Ken Kules (MWD) suggested that one role of the work groups is to identify needs in preparation for negotiation, so rather than try to develop the specific committee framework; the EOWG should simply identify it as a need to the Settlement Group. Curtis Creel added that it is not really a resource action but instead a process by which performance is measured and agreements are met.

The EOWG discussed the resource actions related to early warning flood activities and Curtis noted narrative summaries would be available in July 2004. The EOWG discussed adding an additional footnote to describe these activities as moving forward parallel to the relicensing process. Curtis will draft revised language for review by the EOWG. The Facilitator briefed the EOWG on the status of the transferred resource action, EO8 regarding watershed activities. Curtis acknowledged that DWR might play a role in watershed modeling outside of the relicensing process. The EOWG agreed EO9 is a Category 5. Curtis will revise comment section for EOWG review. The EOWG discussed EO10 and Ken Kules suggested that consideration of infrastructure impacts should be limited to effects of new PM&E measures related to the new license conditions. He also suggested that both negative and positive effects would need to be considered in the analysis. Michael Pierce said that economic benefit should be a goal for relicensing and Butte County feels the Oroville Facilities have had a negative economic impact on the County. Curtis Creel noted that a narrative report on this resource action would be prepared for discussion at the next EOWG meeting. The Facilitator suggested review of the recently released socioeconomic background report prepared for the RSWG.

### **Modeling Workshop Preview**

Curtis Creel briefed the EOWG on the format for the upcoming Modeling Workshop and incorporated a review of the revised Summary of Potential Sensitivity Analysis distributed in advance of the EOWG meeting (Attachment 4). The Workshop will be held on February 11, 2004 at the DWR Training Center on R Street in Sacramento. He explained that there would be more information on HYDROPS and WQQRS and he expects a suite of data to be presented. The modeling team plans to present Scenarios #1, #2, #10 and #17A. Scenarios #7 and #22 will be presented at a follow-up Operations Modeling Workshop. He described Scenario 17A as a logical outgrowth of a scenario proposed by DFG to evaluate seasonal temperature variations. CDs including a write-up on each scenario and the supporting data will be available at the February 11, 2004 Workshop. Each scenario is being run using data for the period 1964 through 1993. The Workshop will include brief overviews followed by breakout sessions where participants can interact directly with the modeling team to ask specific questions. Information will be presented on power and water supply impacts but no economic effects will be described. The follow-up Operations Modeling Workshop is tentatively scheduled for March 19, 2004. The EOWG discussed how the Flow/Temperature joint Task Force input development would coordinate with the upcoming modeling efforts.

### **Next Steps**

The EOWG agreed to schedule the next EOWG meeting as a full-day meeting at OFD on February 27, 2004. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. to accommodate participants' travel needs.

Date: February 27, 2004  
Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Location: Oroville Field Division, Oroville

### **Action Item**

The following action items were identified by the EOWG and includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and due date.

**Action Item EO#102:** Revise Resource Action Matrix as discussed and distribute in advance of the next EOWG meeting.

**Responsible:** DWR

**Due Date:** February 20, 2004

**Action Item EO#103:** Prepare a write-up for EOWG review on preliminary modeling results and findings related to Resource Action EO1.

**Responsible:** DWR

**Due Date:** February 20, 2004

**Action Item EO#104:** Prepare a write-up on Resource Action EO10 for EOWG review.

**Responsible:** DWR

**Due Date:** February 20, 2004